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#2

Disney PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN

SCHWEIZER

FLOOD



Disney PIRATES *of the* CARIBBEAN



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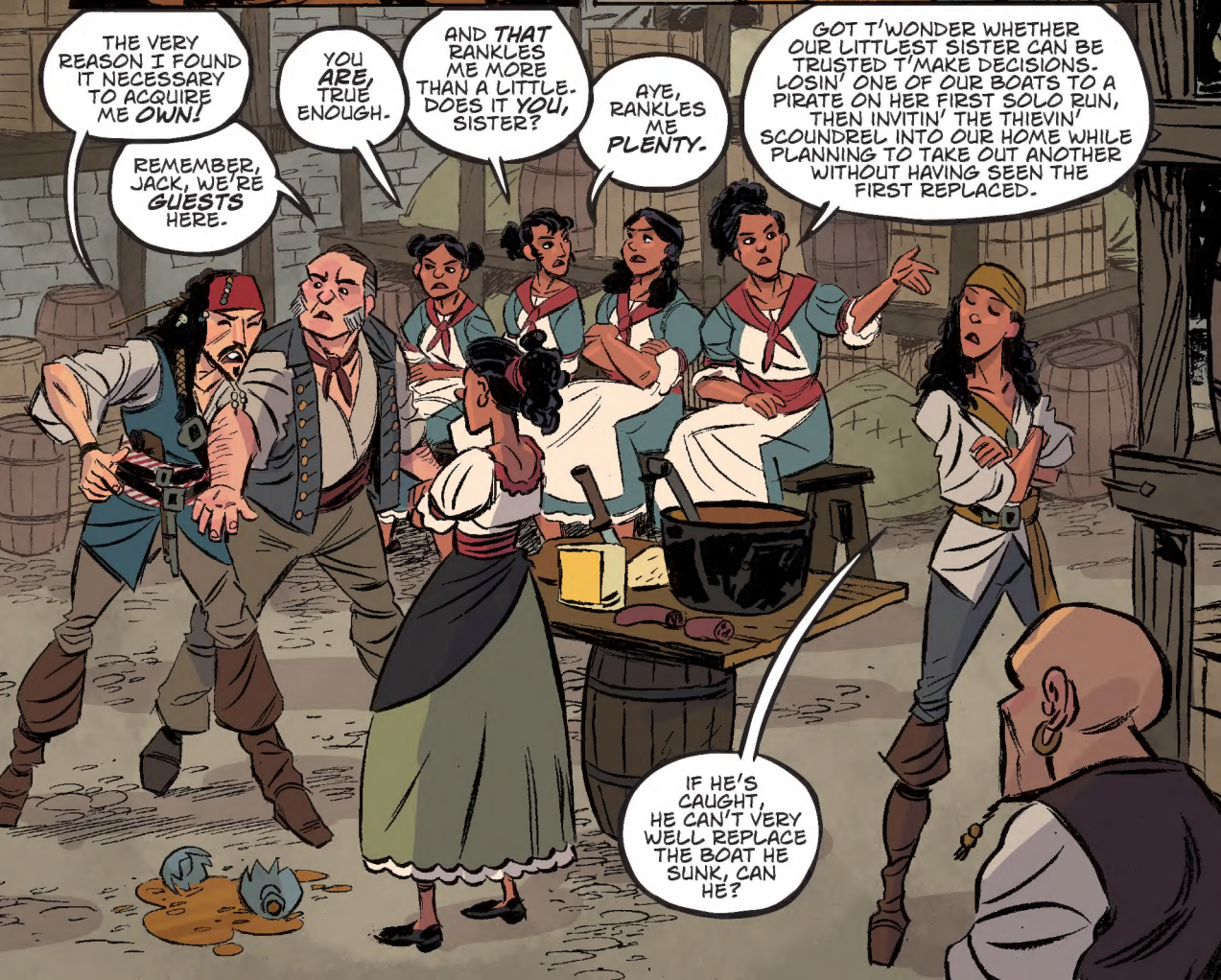
IT AIN'T UNUSUAL
FOR JACK SPARROW
T'FIND HIMSELF AFOUL OF
LAW AND LAWLESS BOTH,
BUT HE'S ALWAYS BEEN
ABLE TO TAKE HIS LEAVE ON
THE VAST AND TREACHEROUS
BLUE WHEN THINGS GET
TOO HOT FOR HIM.

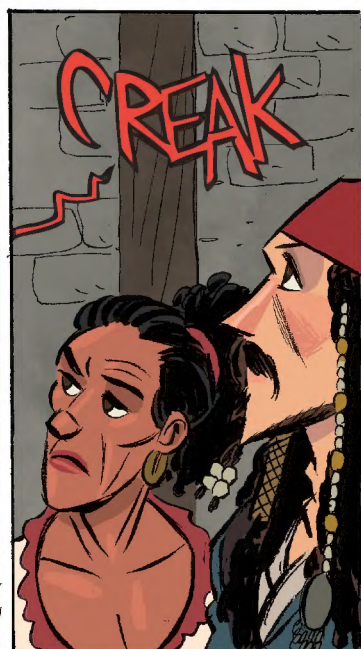
BUT THERE'S NARY
A GUST O' WIND
TO TAKE HIM
FROM PORT ROYAL,
AND THINGS BE
GROWING HOTTER
FOR OL' JACK
BY THE MINUTE...

Smoke on the Water

STORY
CHRIS SCHWEIZER
ART
JOE FLOOD



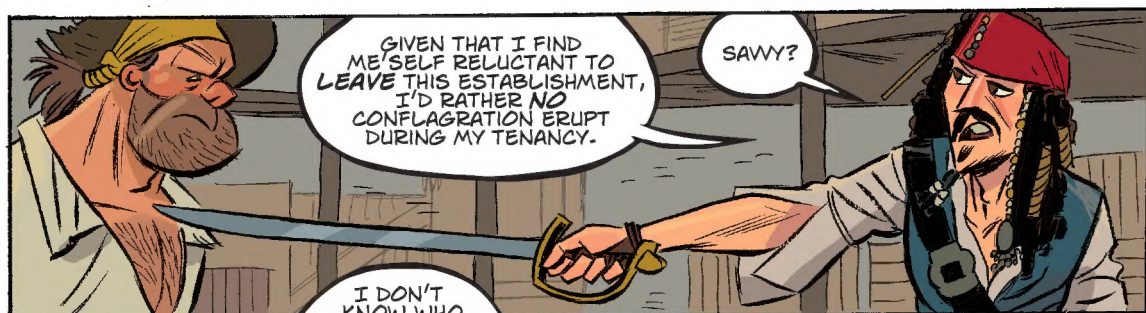


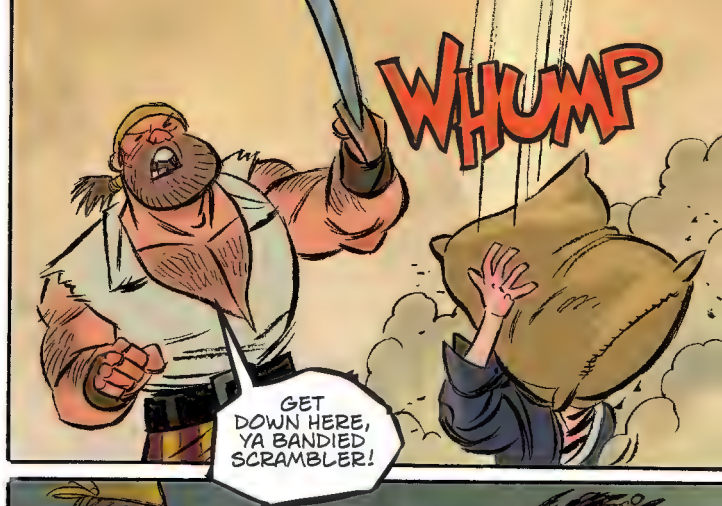














SLIPPERY JIM'S GOING TO HEAR ABOUT THIS! HE'LL HAVE THE WHOLE GANG ON YOU.

YOU TELL YOUR GANG CHIEF THAT IF HE'S OF A MIND TO RUN THIS QUARTER---



...HE'D BEST AVOID CONFRONTATIONS TWIXT HIS HIRELINGS AND MORE EXPERIENCED BLADES SUCH AS ME'S-SELF.



WHAT KIND OF NONSENSE ARE YOU PULLING?

ME. YOUR BACON. SAVED.

YOU'RE WELCOME, BY THE WAY.



YOU THINK MY GIRLS COULDN'T HAVE THROWN THOSE CLOWNS OUT ON THEIR EARS IF I'D ALLOWED IT?

IT AIN'T THEM SMASHING A COUPLE OF CRATES THAT'S THE PROBLEM, YOU, IT'S WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN WHEN THEY DON'T HAVE AN AUDIENCE.

NOW THEY'RE LIKE ENOUGH TO SET FIRE TO THE PLACE WHILE WE'RE SLEEPING, OR SINK OUR BOATS IN THE HARBOR WHILE WE'RE ON SHORE!



WE COULD BARELY AFFORD THE SQUEEZE FROM ONE GANG.

TWO GANGS ARE DEATH ON A SMALL BUSINESS. YOU CAN FORGET PROFIT WHEN YOU'RE DOUBLING TO THE MUSCLE RACKET.

ACTUALLY, THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR PROFITS ABOUND, LUV.

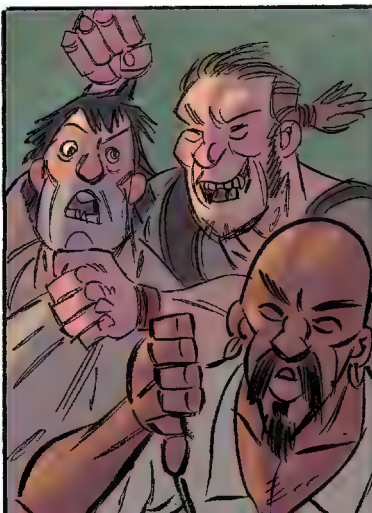
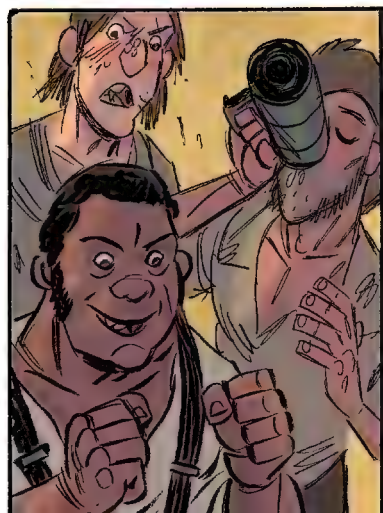


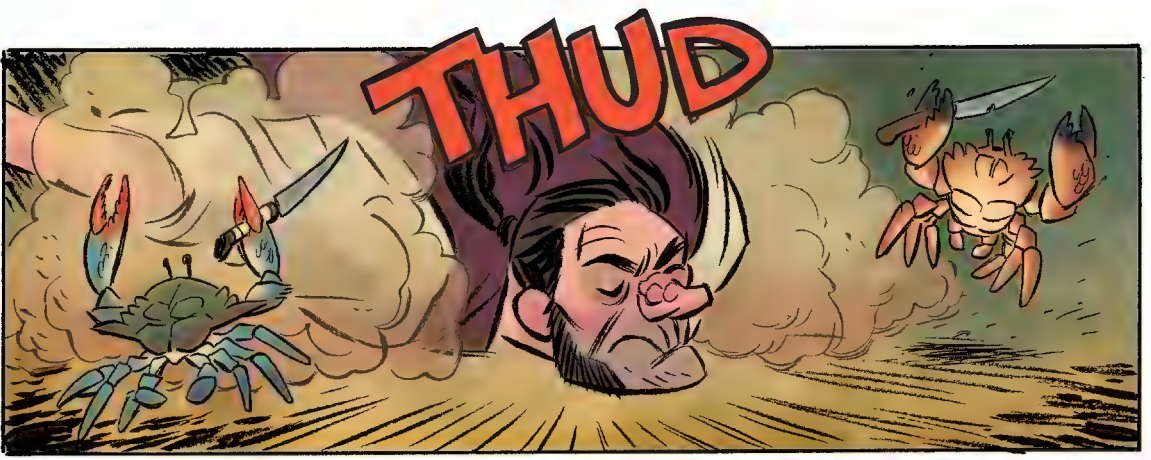
WHEN TWO ENTERPRISES FIND THEMSELVES AT IMPASSE, BOTH WILL GRASP AT ANY ASSET THAT MIGHT GRANT THEM ADVANTAGE ON THE COMPETITION.

CONVINCE EITHER SIDE THAT YOU ARE SUCH AN ASSET, AND THEY'LL BURST YOUR PURSE AIMIN' TO MAKE YOU THE INSTRUMENT OF THEIR SUCCESS.















MIGHT I DEDUCE FROM YOUR VISCOUS COMPLEXION THAT YOU ARE THE GANG LEADER KNOWN APTLY AS SLIPPERY JIM?



I'M JIM. AND I HEAR YOU'RE THE ONE MADE TROUBLE FOR THREE O' MY MEN.

NO TROUBLE ON MY END. EASY AS BREADFRUIT I SEND 'EM PACKING, AND WITH NARY A SERIOUS INJURY ON THEIR PERSON, SAVE THE CHAP STILL STUCK IN THAT BARREL.

THIS UNRULY AND/OR VIOLENT BAND AT MY BACK IS HERE WITH SINGLE PURPOSE-

-TO ENGAGE IN VICIOUS COMBAT AND DO ALL IN ITS POWER TO WIPE YOUR LOT FROM THE VERY FACE OF THE WATERFRONT.

TO THAT END, THEY HAVE OFFERED ME TWENTY DOUBLOONS TO SEE TO IT THAT I REPEAT MY PERFORMANCE FROM THE STOREHOUSE BUT WITH LESS CONCERN FOR THE WELL-BEING OF YOUR COMPATRIOTS THAN I PREVIOUSLY DEMONSTRATED,

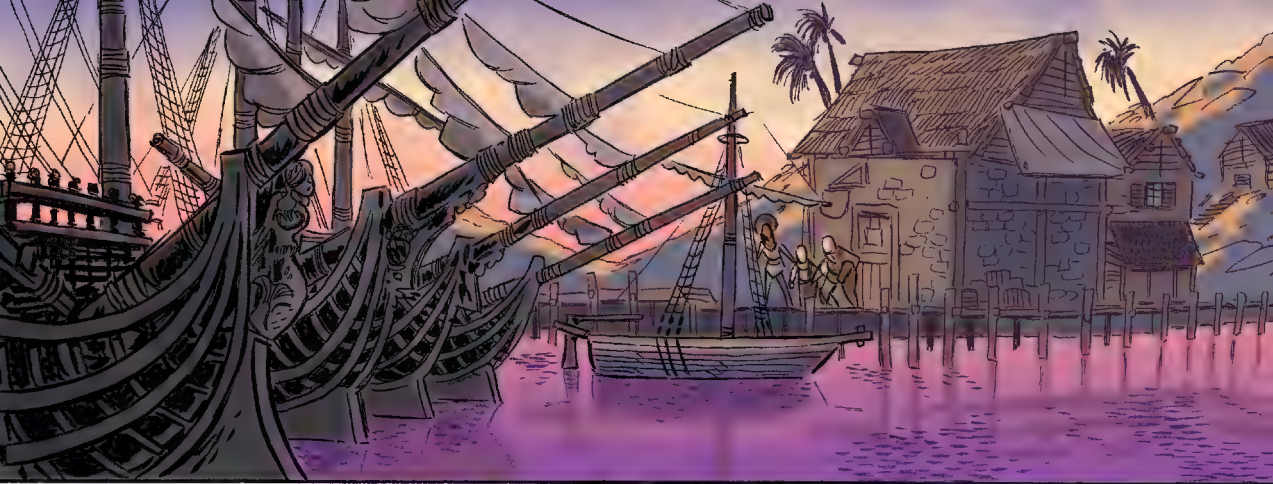
SAVVY?



THEY OFFERED ME THIRTY TO SIT IT OUT.







I AIN'T LOOKING FORWARD TO ROWING, I CAN TELL YOU THAT.

HAVING TO PUT ARM TO OAR IS THE LEAST OF OUR WORRIES.

I DON'T KNOW HOW JACK THINKS WE'RE GOING TO SLIP OUT UNNOTICED. EVEN IF NORRINGTON'S SHIP CAN'T FOLLOW US WITHOUT WIND, IT'D BE ABLE TO TURN ITS GUNS TO US IF IT SPOTS US ROWING OUT AND GETS SUSPICIOUS.



I AM CONFIDENT THAT WE WILL FIND AN AVENUE BY WHICH TO CREATE A DISTRACTION.



YOUR GANGSTER TROUBLES ARE OVER, METHERINKS. THEY DID NOT, AS I'D INTENDED, DO AWAY WITH EACH OTHER, BUT I EXPECT THAT THEY CAN DO LITTLE MISCHIEF TO YOUR SHIPPING COMPANY FROM INSIDE A JAIL CELL.



PLEASE TELL ME THAT YOU DIDN'T STOP ON THE WAY BACK HERE TO BUY MORE RUM.

NOT JUST ANY RUM.



THIS IS EASILY THE **STRONGEST** BREW IN PORT ROYAL.

LAST TIME I HAD IT I DRANK IT NEAR A CANDLE AND BLOODY NEAR SINGED OFF ME EYEBROWS.



I'D SAY I'VE EARNED IT AFTER A DAY LIKE TODAY

SHING



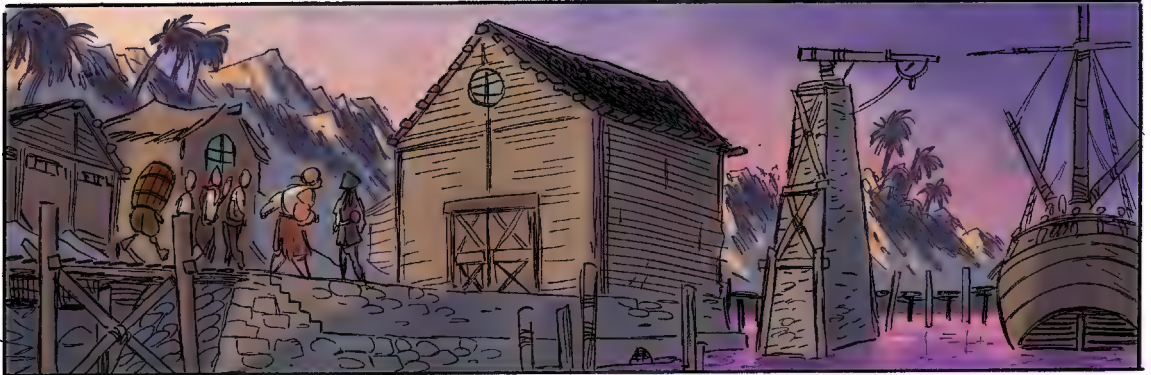
I'D SAY YOU'VE
EARNED A BLADE
TWIXT THE RIBS,
BUT WE'RE
GONNA TAKE OUR
TIME ON THAT.



AH. LOOKS AS
THOUGH YOU'VE
PUT ASIDE YOUR
DIFFERENCES,
EH?

THERE AIN'T
ENOUGH
OF US LEFT
TO QUARREL,
NOT AFTER
YOUR LITTLE
STUNT.

MOVE.



SAW YOU SLIPPING
OFF ALL SNEAKY, FRIEND.
I THINK YOU WERE MORE
WORRIED ABOUT BEING
SPOTTED BY THOSE
SOLDIERS THAN YOU
WERE RUNNING
AFOUL OF US.

WE WAS TRYING
TO FIGURE OUT
WHY THAT MIGHT BE,
AND WE RECKONED
THAT MAYBE YOU'VE THE
PIRATE ESCAPED THE
GALLOWS A FEW
DAYS BACK.



WE RECKON YOU
MUST BE JACK
SPARROW.

CAPTAIN
JACK
SPARROW.

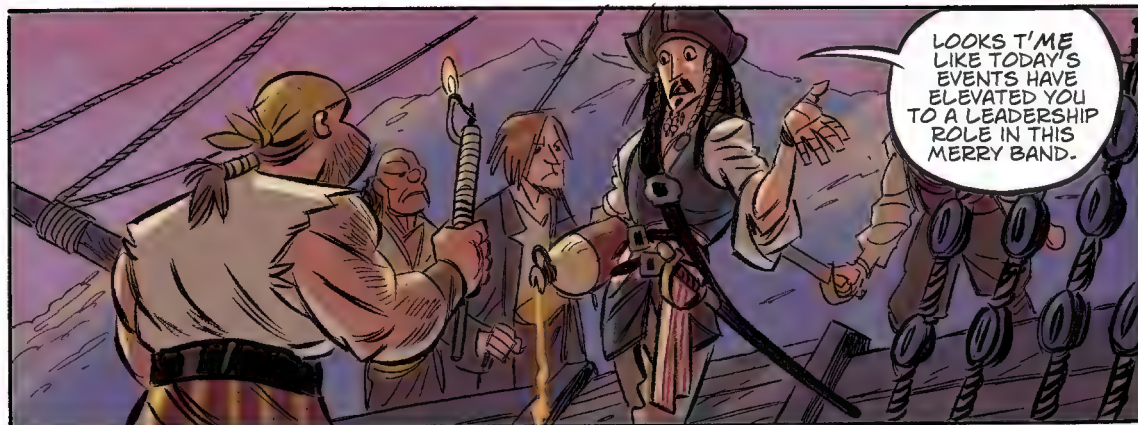
CAPTAIN.



WELL, CAPTAIN,
THERE'S A SIZEABLE
REWARD ON YOU,
AND WE MEAN TO
COLLECT IT...



---AFTER WE'VE
CARVED A FEW PIECES
OFF YOU AS RECOMPENSE
FOR THE TROUBLE YOU'VE
PUT US THROUGH
TODAY.



LOOKS T'IME
LIKE TODAY'S
EVENTS HAVE
ELEVATED YOU
TO A LEADERSHIP
ROLE IN THIS
MERRY BAND.



I WOULD
THINK THAT,
HAPPY IN
YOUR NEW
POSITION--

--YOU WOULD
BE WILLING
TO OVERLOOK
ANY OFFENSES
WROUGHT BY
ONE TO WHOM
YOU LIKELY
OWE YOUR
NEWFOUND
AUTHORITY.



YOU'D BE
WRONG.

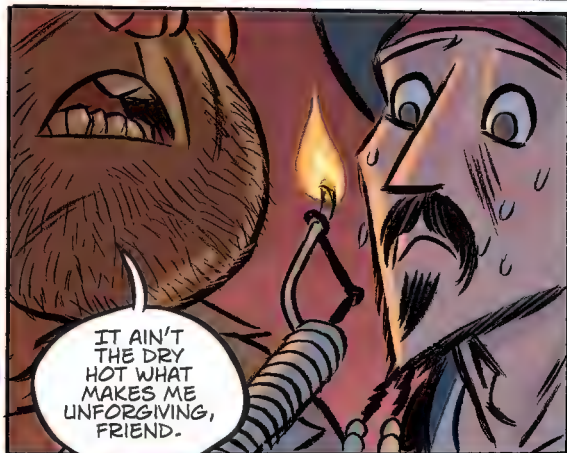


IT'S
THE HEAT,
ISN'T IT?

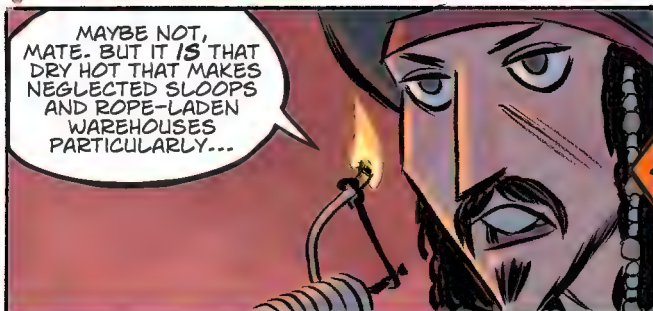
HEAT LIKE
THIS TENDS T'MAKE
OTHERWISE RATIONAL
INDIVIDUALS **IRRITABLE**
AND CONSIDERABLY
LESS FORGIVING
THAN THEY MIGHT
OTHERWISE BE IN MORE
FAVORABLE CLIMATIC
CIRCUMSTANCES.



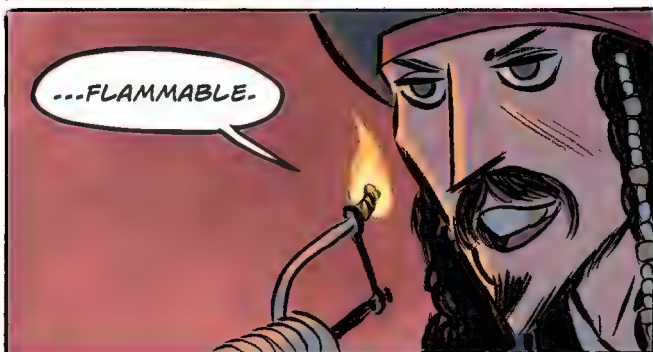
AND I SUSPECT
THAT CARRYING A
LIT SLOWMATCH
ALL THE TIME
PROBABLY MAKES
IT **WORSE.**



IT AIN'T
THE DRY
HOT WHAT
MAKES ME
UNFORGIVING,
FRIEND.



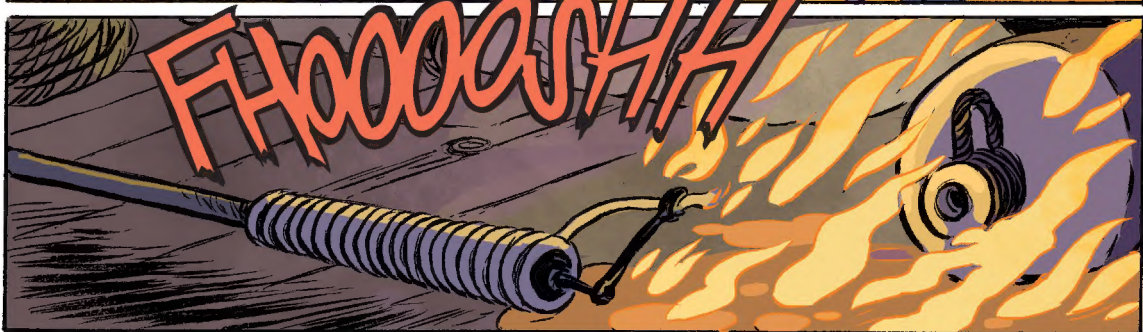
MAYBE NOT,
MATE. BUT IT **IS** THAT
DRY HOT THAT MAKES
NEGLECTED SLOOPS
AND ROPE-LADEN
WAREHOUSES
PARTICULARLY...

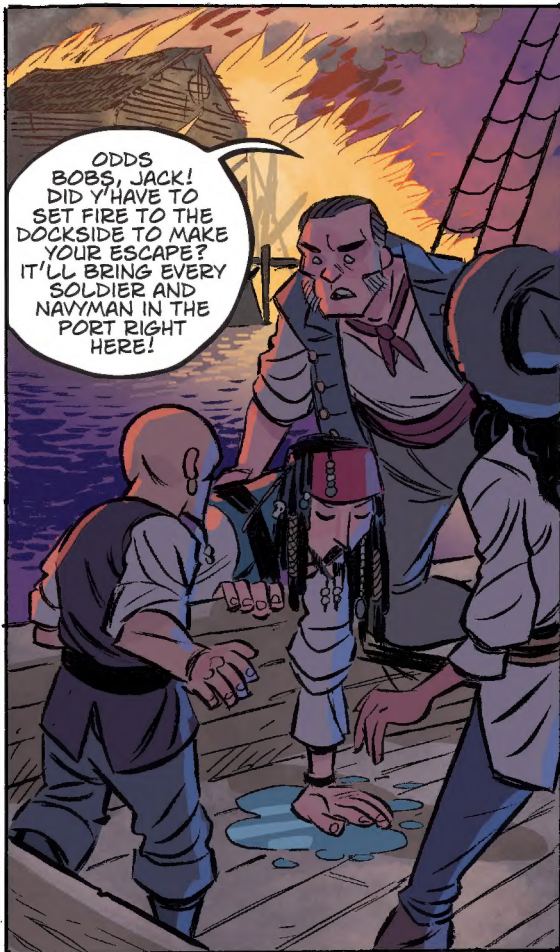
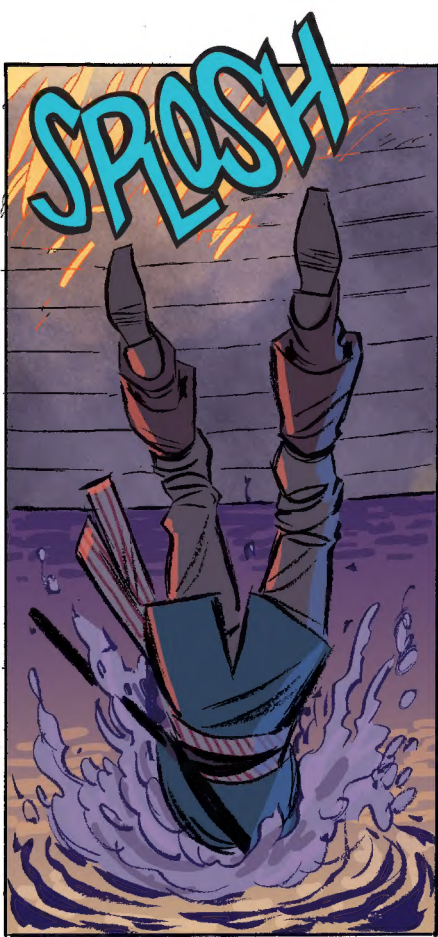


...**FLAMMABLE.**



FWOOOSH





WE WILL
BE ROWING
SOU'-SOU'EAST
IN ORDER TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF THE
ATTENTION THAT
THIS INFERNO
IS CERTAIN TO
GARNER FROM
NORRINGTON'S
MEN.

WE SHOULD
CATCH THE TRADE
CURRENTS A MILE
OR SO OUT...

...AND BE WELL
ON OUR WAY TO
RETRIEVING A CERTAIN
ITEM LONG COVERED
BY EVERY CUTTHROAT
THAT EVER SAILED
THE BLUE.

WHAT COULD
POSSIBLY
GO WRONG?

NEXT:
BANSHEE'S
BOON



JOE BOOKS LTD